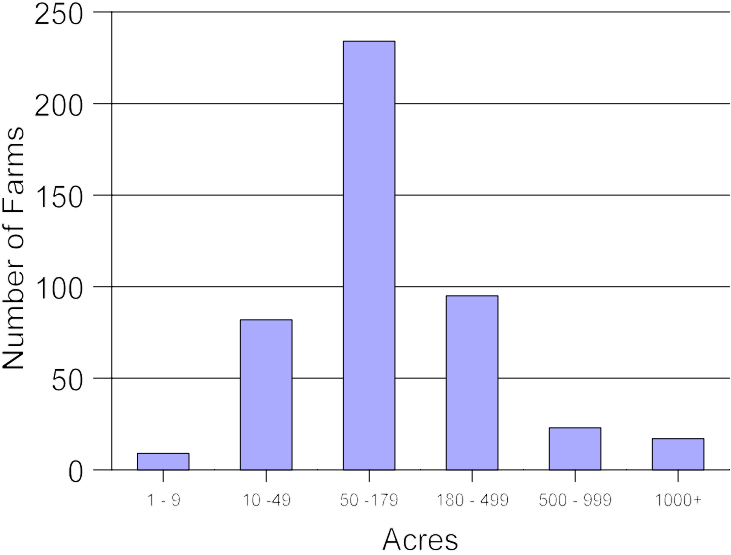
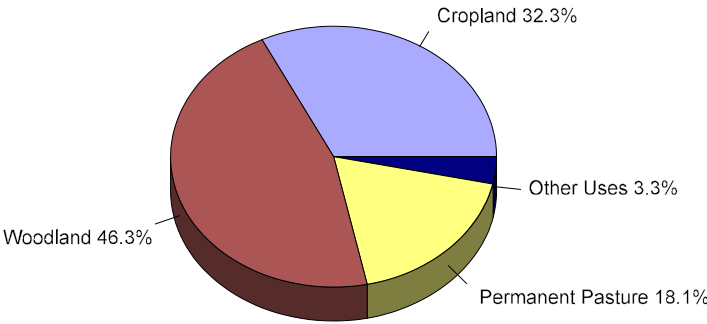


FARMS

Farms by Size



Land in Farms



Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Farming	233
Other	227
Principal operators by sex:	
Male	405
Female	55
Average age of principal operator (years)	59.2
All operators <sup>5</sup> by race:	
White	628
Black or African American	23
American Indian or Alaska Native	-
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-
Asian	-
More than one race	-
All operators <sup>5</sup> of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin	3

Footnotes: 1/ Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with items. 2/ Beginning with 1997, data includes an adjustment for undercoverage. 3/Due to changes in definition and wording of questions, figures for “cropland pasture” and “other pasture” are not always comparable from the Census. Acreage beginning with 1964 refer to pastureland and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pastured, on farms with sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. 4/ Beginning with 1974, agricultural operations under individual management with annual sales of \$1,000 or more. 5/ Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm. NA Not Available. (D) Cannot be disclosed. (Z) Less than ½ of the unit shown. See “Census of Agriculture, Vol. 1, Geographic Series” for complete footnotes.



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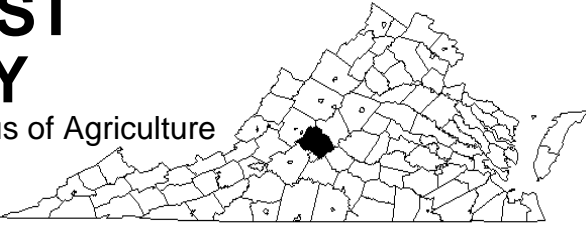
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FAX Number (804)-771-2651  
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For more Statistics on the 2002 Census of Agriculture go  
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Revised 2004

AMHERST  
COUNTY

2002 U.S. Census of Agriculture



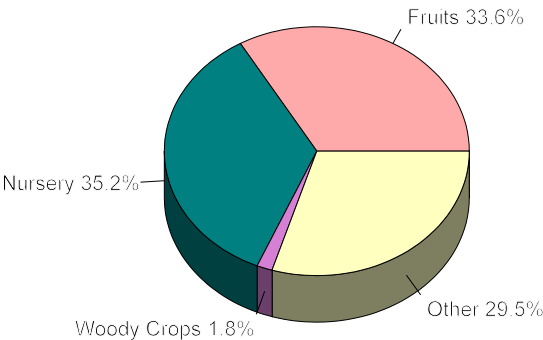
Amherst County is situated in the west-central Piedmont Plateau and is bordered on the west by the Blue Ridge Mountains. Formed form part of Albemarle in 1761, the county was named in honor of General Amherst, who successfully commanded the British troops in America during the French and Indian war.

Since the county includes the foothills and mountain ranges of the Blue Ridge, elevations move upward from about 500 feet in the James River Valley to over 4,000 feet on the higher peaks. Also included in Amherst are 226,454 acres of woodland. The nearest weather stations are at Lynchburg and Bedford, where temperatures average about 38 degrees in January and 76 in July. The frost-free growing season extends from around April 15 to about October 25. Annual precipitation averages 43 inches. Agriculture is a booming industry in Amherst, and income from the sale of farm commodities in 1992 amounted to over 4.2 million dollars. Of this total, roughly 80 percent came from livestock, including dairy and poultry products. Cattle and calves were the leading source, contributing 65 percent of this amount. Apples and peaches accounted for another 1 percent of the 1992 farm income.

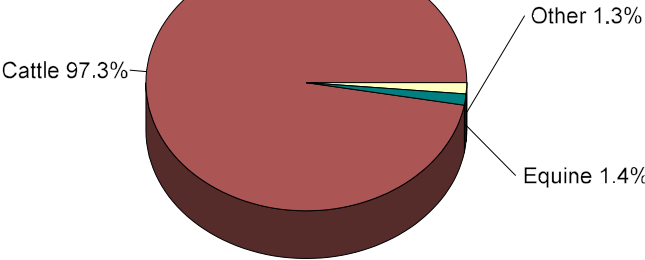
Highlights	2002	1997
Number of Farms	460	499
Land in Farms (acres)	99,863	101,617
Average size of farm	217	204
Market Value of Production County Total	\$6,368,000	\$5,311,000
Average per farm	\$13,844	\$10,643
Government Payments	\$61,000	\$68,000

CASH RECEIPTS

Crops



Livestock & Poultry



Ranked Items among the 98 state counties and 3,078 US Counties, 2002

Commodity	Quantity	State Rank	Universe 1/	US Rank	Universe 1/
VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	(D)	(D)	95	(D)	2,871
Tobacco	-	-	43	-	560
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	15	-	656
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	(D)	(D)	95	(D)	2,747
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	341	19	93	671	2,638
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	357	54	95	1,577	2,708
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	18	46	76	991	1,774
Other crops and hay	259	66	97	2,397	3,046
Poultry and eggs	(D)	(D)	94	(D)	2,918
Cattle and calves	5,212	32	97	1,482	3,053
Milk and other dairy products from cows	27	74	83	2,337	2,493
Hogs and pigs	15	48	90	2,164	2,919
Sheep, goats, and their products	19	49	93	1,943	2,997
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	75	53	94	2,031	3,014
Aquaculture	-	-	44	-	1,520
Other animals and other animal products	(D)	(D)	87	(D)	2,727
TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)					
Cattle and calves	17,947	33	97	1,562	3,059
Horses and ponies	591	46	97	1,965	3,065
Layers 20 weeks old and older	343	63	96	2,167	2,983
All Goats	259	56	95	1,617	2,971
Sheep and lambs	105	66	93	2,260	2,867
TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)					
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	14,915	40	97	1,378	3,059
Corn for silage	295	58	87	1,622	2,307
Corn for grain	196	81	96	2,203	2,592
Nursery stock	(D)	24	77	(D)	2,129
Grapes	70	11	76	175	1,830

FARM DATA & LAND USE

YEAR	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Avg. Value Per Acre For Land & Buildings	LAND USE					
				Cropland			Other Pasture 3/	Woodland	
				Harvested	Other	Pasture		Pasture	Not Pastured
	Number	Acres	Dollars	-Acres-					
1940	2,221	184,574	35	33,198	20,982	29,090	NA	NA	NA
1945	2,101	190,423	37	35,126	9,392	11,668	37,248	NA	79,134
1950	1,337	158,648	60	23,095	11,257	12,150	24,964	NA	80,130
1954	1,157	144,720	60	20,672	5,994	4,954	32,578	NA	76,394
1959	925	137,524	87	17,557	3,627	5,359	33,379	NA	71,553
1964	799	141,125	98	15,427	5,231	7,958	14,694	12,055	15,177
1969	493	101,604	151	11,127	3,049	15,818	13,529	13,108	14,414
1974 4/	438	97,264	419	12,991	1,123	21,830	12,892	11,305	14,617
1978	432	94,915	643	11,361	1,850	19,405	18,099	20,926	19,656
1982	450	94,922	710	12,209	1,241	17,801	17,542	20,164	22,972
1987	408	93,860	760	12,021	1,875	20,041	13,717	18,864	23,156
1992	418	90,296	1,070	13,293	1,364	20,604	14,673	14,519	23,526
1997 2/	499	101,617	1,270	14,357	1,022	20,603	13,561	19,450	28,380
2002	460	99,863	2,402	15,518	1,032	15,718	18,120	16,392	29,829

See Footnotes on back.